

SPORTS

QUICK HITS

Humbert returning as women’s hoops head coach at RRCC

After a one-year hiatus from coaching women’s basketball, Dieter Humbert is returning as Rainy River Community College’s head coach next season.

Humbert’s return as the head women’s basketball coach was announced Wednesday morning in an e-mail message from RRCC director of student services LeAnne Hardy and comes following another announcement earlier this week from the school that first-year head coach Adam Rotar will not be returning next season.

Rotar coached much of the Voyageurs’ 2014-15 season with only five players on the roster and compiled a record of 2-12 in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference’s Northern Division and 6-19 overall.

Humbert, who has more than 20 years of experience coaching women’s basketball at RRCC, had stepped down after the 2013-14 season to spend more time watching his own children in grades 7-12 play sports.

Following the high school graduation of his son, Ben, at the end of this school year, Humbert said he will be able to commit the time to coaching RRCC women’s basketball in 2015-16.

“I didn’t envision it happening this fast,” Humbert said of returning as the head women’s basketball coach.

Humbert, who presently is also RRCC’s head softball coach, said he will be involved in recruiting both women’s basketball and softball players for next season.

Cole Tatsak 23rd in Class A State diving

International Falls senior diver Cole Tatsak finished 23rd Thursday in the State Class A Swimming and Diving Tournament at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.

Tatsak, one of 24 divers competing at state in Class A, was eliminated in the preliminaries when he was unable to advance to the semifinals among the top-20 divers with his preliminary score of 107.45.

Princeton junior Dustin Moinichen had the lowest preliminary score of the 20 semifinalists with 124.6 points. Grand Rapids sophomore Wil Gangas-Olson was the 16th and final state semifinalist to advance to today’s finals.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today’s games

Women’s hockey

RRCC in ACHA D2 National Tournament semifinals at York, Pa., TBD

Girls basketball

I. Falls vs. Proctor in Section 7AA Tournament at UMD, 2:45 p.m.

Sunday’s games

Women’s hockey

ACHA D2 National Tournament finals in York, Pa., 9 a.m.

Tuesday’s games

Women’s softball

RRCC vs. Itasca/Lincoln Land/Cumberland in Titusville, Fla., 10 a.m./noon/2 p.m.

Men’s baseball

RRCC vs. Owen CC in Lakeland, Fla. (DH), 3 p.m.

Wednesday’s games

Women’s softball

RRCC vs. Rowen College/Kishwaukee in Titusville, Fla., 9 a.m./2 p.m.

Men’s baseball

RRCC vs. Hannibal LaGrange JV in St. Petersburg, Fla. (DH), noon

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Broncos level Greenway in section opener

FHS to face Proctor in quarterfinals

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The ending was in stark contrast to the beginning Wednesday night when the No. 1-seeded International Falls girls basketball team opened the Section 7AA Tournament with a 99-37 home victory over No. 8-seeded Greenway.

The game remained close before the midway point of the first half with the Broncos leading by only a point at 17-16 when the Raiders’ Bailly Hubbard made one of two free throws with 10:46 left before halftime.

Multiple Greenway turnovers, coupled with shooting woes, began to take their toll as the Falls then closed out the half outscoring the Raiders, 39-10, to lead 56-26 at intermission.

“We kind of got out to

a slow start,” said Broncos head coach Shawn Gilbert. “We got some turnovers. I guess that’s how we do it....”

“We started hitting some shots, we got to get in our defense (and) we got to get some easy steals after that, so it was a matter of time to get going, basically.”

The Falls continued to extend its lead early in the second half, outscoring Greenway 23-3 in the first 5 minutes as the Bronco reserves saw plenty of playing time before the final buzzer with 10 players scoring points.

Four Falls players scored in double figures led by Teagan Anderson with 19 points, which included five 3-pointers. Jena Sullivan added 18 points, Grace Gilbert scored 13 and Emma Gilbert put in 10 more.

Meghan Foley was the only Greenway player to score in double figures with 15 points.

With the win, the Broncos improved to 21-6 on the season and advanced to today’s Section 7AA quarterfinal game at 2:45 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Broncos’ Janet Humbert drives inside past Greenway’s Delaney Mjolsness (23) in Wednesday night’s Section 7AA playoff game in the Falls High School gym.

Int’l Falls 99, Greenway 37
Greenway 26 11 – 37
Int’l Falls 56 43 – 99
Greenway: Karli Rutherford 2, Amanda Borth 9, Bailly Hubbard 8, Brynna Sorby 1, Meghan Foley 15, Joleen Olds 2. 3-pointers: Hubbard. Free throws: 8-20. Fouls: 19.
Int’l Falls: Grace Gilbert 13, Mad-

die Filipiak 9, Teah Goulet 6, Bianca Carlson 4, Cassie Tomczak 7, Teagan Anderson 19, Janet Humbert 8, Jena Sullivan 18, Emma Gilbert 10, Paige Heem-Taschuk 5. 3-pointers: Anderson 5, G. Gilbert 3, Filipiak, Tomczak, E. Gilbert, Heem-Taschuk. Free throws: 19-29. Fouls: 19.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Huskies run past Vikings

L-BF ends season 10-12

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Playing Bigfork for the third time this season didn’t turn out to be the charm Thursday night for the Littlefork-Big Falls girls basketball team.

The No. 6-seeded Vikings led early, but couldn’t keep pace with the No. 3-seeded Huskies and lost the opening Section 7A Tournament game, 60-41, at Hibbing Memorial Arena.

“We didn’t put together our best game, obviously, but hats off to Bigfork,” said L-BF head coach Dan Beste. “It takes a lot to beat a team three times in a year, and they’ve got the tools. There’s a reason they’re 20-5. They win a lot of games the right way.”

The Vikings benefited from the Huskies being off-target on their outside shooting and committing multiple fouls early. A pair of free throws from Kaylee Kennedy gave L-BF a 10-5 lead with 13:40 left in the first half.

L-BF was already shooting in the bonus from the charity stripe with 10:24 left before halftime when a free throw from Emily Franz kept the Vikings in front by two points, after which Kennedy added a field goal to extend the lead to 14-10.

The lead see-sawed midway through the first half before Bigfork went on a 7-0 run and never trailed



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Vikings’ Kaylee Kennedy (4) dribbles inside while being guarded by Bigfork’s Kia Tower (1) in Thursday night’s Section 7A Tournament game at Hibbing Memorial Arena.

again. The half ended with the Huskies’ Kia Tower making a layup just before the buzzer to lead by 11 points, 33-22.

“We came out with the drive to want to stay in the basketball game and compete,” Beste said. “As time went on, you saw they’ve got a deeper bench and we got tired. We got tired. We didn’t hit shots. We got in foul trouble. They hit shots and we didn’t. It’s tough to recover from that.”

Bigfork expanded its lead to more than 20 points in the second half when L-BF was outscored in the first 11 minutes, 17-5.

Kennedy accounted for more than half of the Vikings’ scoring with a game-high 23 points.

The Huskies had two players score in double figures led by Haley Grover with 16 points. Shayla Cook added 12 points.

The loss ended L-BF’s season with a record of 10-12, while Bigfork advanced to today’s Section 7A quarterfinal game

in Hibbing against No. 2-seeded Cherry, which won its opening playoff game Thursday against No. 7-seeded Northeast Range.

The Vikings won’t be losing any players to graduation because there are no seniors on the team.

“The conversation in the locker room is a little bit easier knowing that we’ve got everybody back,” Beste said. “The future looks good as long as we get everybody coming back out and wanting to work hard and get better. We’ll be just fine next year.”

Bigfork 60, L-BF 41
L-BF 22 19 – 41
Bigfork 33 27 – 60
L-BF: Kaylee Kennedy 23, Emily Franz 4, Karly Swenson 6, Breann Larson 7, Alexis Doucette 1. 3-pointers: Kennedy 2. Free throws: 15-29. Fouls: 13. Fouled out: Doucette.
Bigfork: Kia Tower 6, Lexi Becker 9, Shayla Cook 12, Haley Grover 16, Brianna Haley 6, Tiandra Haley 7, Jessica Schmit 4. 3-pointers: Cook 2, Becker. Free throws: 7-9. Fouls: 23.

WOMEN’S HOCKEY

Voyageurs clinch national tourney semifinal berth

RRCC wins first two in pool play

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Rainy River Community College women’s hockey team clinched a spot in the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division 2 National Tournament semifinals in York, Pa., after winning the first two games there in pool play.

RRCC opened pool play Wednesday with a 3-1 victory over the club team from Michigan State University.

After a scoreless opening period, the Spartans took a 1-0 lead in the second period with their only goal of the game scored by Dana Ovsjannikovova with an assist from Sarah Blackhurst.

The Voyageurs then scored twice in the second period. The tying goal came from Micah Cabral assisted by Hailey Clendenning and Shilo Beck. Clendenning then scored what turned out to be the winning goal with an assist from Cabral.

“I think it took some getting used to the ice,” said RRCC head coach Jeff Wickstrom, who noted it was warm on the rink with the outside air temperature being in the 40s. “By the second and third period, we were really controlling the play.”

The Voyageurs added a goal in the final period when Cabral scored again assisted by Clendenning and Beck.

RRCC outshot Michigan State, 30-21, with Shay Perry recording the win and Hannah Johnson picking up the loss in goal.

RRCC 4, BUFFALO 1

In somewhat of a repeat performance from a day earlier, RRCC gave up the first goal and then did the

rest of the scoring on day two of pool play.

The Voyageurs, who held a 41-19 advantage in shots on goal, ended up winning Thursday against the University of Buffalo, 4-1.

“As you can see by the shots on goal, we definitely controlled the game,” said Wickstrom, who also noted the team had multiple scoring opportunities that weren’t capitalized on.

After another scoreless opening period, Buffalo took a 1-0 lead in the second period when Caitlin Mitchell scored unassisted on the power play.

In another repeat performance from a day earlier, RRCC responded with two second-period goals.

Shelby Tymkin tied the game with a goal assisted by Tori Taylor, then Cabral scored an unassisted, short-handed goal for the eventual game-winner.

The Voyageurs added two more goals in the third period. Beck scored unassisted before Cabral put in another shorthanded goal with an assist from Clendenning.

Perry recorded the win in goal for RRCC, while Theresa Meosky picked up the loss in net for Buffalo.

The win improved the Voyageurs pool play record to 2-0 for four points, while Buffalo dropped to 0-2 with no points.

The other two teams in RRCC’s pool, the California University of Pennsylvania and Michigan State, skated to a 3-3 tie Thursday to end the day with respective pool play records of 1-0-1 for three points and 0-1-1 for a point.

That assured the Voyageurs of no worse than a second-place finish after the pool play games Friday and a spot in today’s semifinals.